ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

25X1 FROM [redacted]
Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

EXTENSION

NO. FBIS-0349/86

25X1 DATE 15 October 1986

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
25X1 1 [redacted] PRS/DDS&T Room 6E45, Headquarters				Attached is contribution for Information Handling and Dissemination section of strategic planning exercise.
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SECRET

INFORMATION HANDLING AND DISSEMINATION

The DS&T and the Intelligence Community at large are facing increasing pressure to improve intelligence timeliness for military operations, policymaking, and analysis. Field commanders are demanding real-time I&W information and real-time intelligence for targeting and retargeting. Policymakers and analysts are demanding real-time access to intelligence information on the broadest range of worldwide topics. These demands are constant and increasing, even though they attract more attention during crises--coups, terrorist events, Chernobyl-type disasters, counternarcotics operations, etc. Finally, real-time processing is critical if collected information is to be used as a tip-off between National collectors.

A necessary step in meeting these demands for faster intelligence turnaround is improved information handling and dissemination. Improvements here are also essential for processing and analyzing the vast amounts of information collected as a result of the Community's and Agency's investment in expensive new and modernized collection and processing systems. We must also improve our communications networks to move the increased data volume in near-real-time from the point of collection and/or processing to the end user. Finally, we must improve our storage and retrieval systems and their interconnectivity so that analysts may coherently read, process, compose, file, and retrieve from the substantially larger intelligence holdings we anticipate.

The large costs associated with each of these necessary improvements during a period of constricting resources dictate that the Agency adopt new ways to interact between offices and directorates. We must share in the development and use of new communications links--whether those links support

25X1 [redacted] the transmission of raw intelligence from the collector to the processor, the transmission of data from the processor to the user, or the exchange of information from analyst to analyst or from analyst to database. We must ensure cross-directorate access to information, while protecting those data that must be restricted to the use of a particular office. We must develop expert systems to aid the user in gaining fast and easy access to information from many different sources.

The DS&T could undertake a number of efforts to alleviate a portion of

25X1 the problem. In the communications arena we believe [redacted] is the most pressing problem. For years the Agency has focused upon developing

25X1 [redacted] capability. This solution has many desirable features, some of which it uniquely offers. Its high cost, however, forces the Agency to consider instead the development of a

25X1 realizable yet robust capability through many different channels [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

We must also increase resources devoted to solving the problem of moving information not only from the collector to headquarters but also between headquarters units, between agencies, and between agencies and consumers. One partial solution would be the creation of a Washington Area Imagery Transmission System with a connection to key consumers outside the Washington area. This effort would not only expand the use of multi-mode imagery but could also provide technological spinoffs applicable to other wideband distribution problems.

The Agency must also address the difficult problem of storing and retrieving the massive volumes of information generated by our collectors. Despite improvements such as SAFE, we are still bound to a great extent to searching, storing, retrieving, and distributing information in hard copy. The search task of this process can now take hours or days, while the requirements frequently call for near-real-time capability. We must make steady and rapid progress toward the delivery of intelligence products in soft copy, such as in the new NPIC and FBIS systems. We must significantly improve our storage capacity by the use of new media such as optical disks, and we must develop a video storage and retrieval capability to handle the dynamic growth of this material.

Finally, we must take into account the needs of the user. Analysts must have information on line, be able to find information of interest from a

variety of sources, and be able to have access to that data within necessary security restrictions. We must ensure connectivity between data bases and develop a common query language to aid the user in gaining fast and easy access. Currently, access to or search of these data bases requires an intimate knowledge of the data base structure and often the language of the system. Applying artificial intelligence and developing expert systems to provide a high level query language and "translators" for each of the separate systems could provide the connectivity and ease of access we seek.

Many aspects of this problem transcend CIA and are faced by most agencies in the Intelligence Community. These agencies, under common protocols, must also change the way they interact. Products from DS&T collector offices are widely and daily disseminated throughout the Community. The high cost of future information handling and communications systems will force agencies to pool resources and improve sharing of raw intelligence, soft copy intelligence products, and data bases. The effort to create an Open Source Information Exchange for improved cooperation and cohesiveness among providers and users of open source materials and to allow analysts more direct and convenient access to open source products is a step in the right direction. We must encourage more ventures of this type.